



## U.S. Department of Justice

## Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

Mr. Ernie Lazar  
Post Office Box 423434  
San Francisco, CA 94142-3434

JUN 25 1998

Subject of Request: Manning Johnson

FOIPA No. 357,145 /190- 347145

Dear Requester:

Enclosed are copies of documents from FBI records. Excisions have been made to protect information exempt from disclosure pursuant to Title 5, United States Code, Section 552 (Freedom of Information Act) and/or Section 552a (Privacy Act). In addition, where excisions were made, the appropriate exempting subsections have been cited opposite the deletions. Where pages have been withheld in their entirety, a deleted page information sheet has been substituted showing the reasons or basis for the deletion. The subsections cited for withholding information from the enclosed documents are marked below:

Section 552Section 552a☒ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☒ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3) \_\_\_\_\_☒ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☒ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

(See Form 4-694a, enclosed, for an explanation of these exemptions.)

Pursuant to your request, 89 pages(s) were reviewed and 79 page(s) are being released.

During the review of material pertinent to the subject of your request, documents were located which

- ☒ originated with another Government agency(ies).  
These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.
- ☐ contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS

SUBJ.: Manning Johnson 1948-1950, 1954-1956, 1959  
per request

FILE #: 100-55627

100-55627-13 (1948-1950)  
thru -15

unrecorded but (1954-1956)  
prior to -25  
-29  
+ diff file

unrecorded 1959

Need docs 1-12,  
16-24, and 1957-1958

SACB "approved" Johnson's  
testimony 12/11/56 memo

COPY:EMC

TO : Mr. D. M. Ladd

DATE: February 13, 1948

FROM : [REDACTED] b7C per FBI

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

SECURITY MATTER - C

W

referred

Supervisor Robert A. Collier, while contacting

[REDACTED] on another matter,  
was furnished the attached copy of a letter addressed to the

[REDACTED] This letter concerns

[REDACTED] advised that he believed the text  
of the letter would be of interest to the Bureau.

Attachment

RAC:WMJ

Manning

L

RECORDED

31

FBI

41 MAR 30 1948

100-55627-13

2  
1 ENCL  
31

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-10-97 BY 102AL  
FBI # 357145

104847

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8-10-97 BY 612ALM/HA  
FIPA # 357145

100-55627-13

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

3 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

- ☒ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

100-55627-13 enclosure

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X Deleted Page(s) X  
X No Duplication Fee X  
X for this page X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

SAC, New York

April 14, 1948

Director, FBI

MANNING JOHNSON, wa.  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
New York file 100-17063

69315

Reurlet dated December 29, 1944, wherein you pointed out that the security index card for the subject is being placed in the investigative files since the subject had entered the United States Navy.

Since the subject has exhibited such an anti-Communist attitude during the late years and furthermore has been extremely cooperative with the Government in the prosecution of known Communists, the security index card in the Bureau has been cancelled entirely.

100-55627

JEM:myb

myb

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-10-97 BY 1240/1W  
FIM #357145  
RECORDED

RECEIVED - FBI  
APR 14 2 03 PM '48

EX-47

plb  
JTB

100-55627-14  
81 F B I  
45 APR 15 1948

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 8  
★ APR 14 1948 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

378  
APR 20 1948

Rec'd 12/30/49  
12/30/49  
WAB  
Rec'd 4:30 PM  
PCE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

DEC 23 1949

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson.....  
Mr. Ladd.....  
Mr. Clegg.....  
Mr. Glavin.....  
Mr. Nichols.....  
Mr. Rosen.....  
Mr. Tracy.....  
Mr. Harbo.....  
Mr. Mohr.....  
Tele. Room.....  
Mr. Nease.....  
Miss Gandy.....  
*H. L. Hunt*

WASH FROM NEW YORK 7

DIRECTOR URGENT

23 7-26 P 3-10-97 1124N/114  
IP# 857145  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/26/88 BY SP8 BJB/Buy  
#267,431  
b2 b7c

MANNING JOHNSON, FORMER [REDACTED] ADVISED TODAY THAT HE JUST  
RETURNED FROM SAN FRANCISCO WHERE HE HAD BEEN TESTIFYING IN THE HARRY  
BRIDGES DENATURALIZATION CASE. JOHNSON STATED THAT HE WAS INFORMED  
BY HIS LANDLADY [REDACTED] SIXTYTWO WEST ONE TWENTYFIFTH ST, APT  
ONE, THAT TWO WHITE MEN CALLED AT HER APARTMENT LAST WEDNESDAY,  
DEC TWENTYFIRST, FORTYNINE, STATING THAT THEY WERE CONNECTED IN SOME  
WAY WITH THE HARRY BRIDGES CASE. THESE TWO MEN DID NOT IDENTIFY  
THEMSELVES IN ANY OTHER WAY. THESE MEN ASKED THE LANDLADY QUESTIONS  
CONCERNING JOHNSON AS TO WHETHER HE LIVED AT THIS ADDRESS AND ASKED  
SEVERAL PERSONAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING HIS HABITS. THE LANDLADY AD-  
VISED JOHNSON THAT SHE DID NOT FURNISH THESE MEN WITH ANY INFO OTHER  
THAN TO ADVISE THEM THAT JOHNSON DID LIVE AT THIS ADDRESS. JOHNSON  
STATED THAT HE IS OF THE OPINION THAT THESE TWO WHITE MEN ARE AP-  
PARENTLY CP MEMBERS AND THAT THE PARTY IS APPARENTLY CHECKING ON HIM.  
JOHNSON STATED THAT IN VIEW OF THIS INQUIRY HE WILL BE FORCED TO MOVE  
FROM THIS ADDRESS IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND WILL ADVISE THIS OFFICE OF HIS  
NEW ADDRESS. JOHNSON STATED THAT HE IS LEAVING TONIGHT FOR WASH DC.

END PAGE ONE

1-12-50  
NO RETURN  
NECESSARY  
PCE

5-PC

File copy in 39-915

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 39-915-15

WA 7. PAGE TWO

AND WILL RESIDE AT SIX LOGAN CIRCLE, N. W., WASH, DC, APT SEVEN, PHONE DUPONT ONE EIGHT SIX ONE. JOHNSON ADVISED THAT HE EXPECTS TO RETURN TO NYC TUESDAY, DEC TWENTYSEVENTH AND ON JAN FIRST, NINETEEN FIFTY WILL DEPART FOR WEST COAST, SAN FRANCISCO, TO CONTINUE TESTIFYING IN THE BRIDGES CASE. JOHNSON STATED THAT IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE INQUIRY BY THESE TWO UNKNOWN WHITE MEN JOHNSON WANTED THIS MADE A RECORD OF IN THE FILES OF THE BUREAU. THE ABOVE INFO WAS FURNISHED TO [REDACTED] b7c OF THE INS THIS DATE. THE FOREGOING IS FURNISHED FOR THE BUREAUS INFO. NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY THIS OFFICE UNLESS ADVISED TO THE CONTRARY.

SCHEIDT

HOLD

cc: Mr. Fitcher

Director, FBI

1/12/54

SAC, New York (100-115609)

HCUA

Rebulet 6/8/53.

Manning Johnson

The NYO is in receipt of copies of hearings before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, 83rd Congress, First Session, captioned, "Investigation of Communist Activities in the New York City Area."

Part 7 dated 7/8/53 and Part 8 dated 7/13,14/53 contain testimony by MANNING JOHNSON (NY 100-17063). Pursuant to existing Bureau instructions, a review of the testimony is being initiated and information on individuals referred to therein will be handled accordingly,

The estimated date of completion of the survey is 3/12/54.

*where is it?*

- ① - Bufile 100- (MANNING JOHNSON)
- 1 - NY 100-17063 (MANNING JOHNSON)
- 1 - NY 65-10519 (P&C)

MMB:KMC

100-55627-  
NOT RECORDED  
181 Jan. 13, 1954

354/  
58 JAN 18 1954

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-10-97 BY SP2ALH/AN  
FBI/DOJ # 257145

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 61-7582-2101

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 1/8/54

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: MANNING JOHNSON  
SMC

b7c There is attached hereto a letter directed to this office by [redacted] Commander, Jesse Palmer Post No. 1068, American Legion, 304 West 133rd Street, New York 30, N. Y. For the Bureau's information, [redacted] letter has been acknowledged and he has been advised of the confidential nature of Bureau records which makes it impossible to comply with his request, but that his inquiry has been referred to the Bureau headquarters in Washington, D. C.

This matter is being referred to the Bureau for appropriate action.

Encl. (1)

AJM:MFB

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DATE 3-10-97 BY SP2ALM/JP

59 JAN 25 1954

REC-1  
FBI  
RECEIVED  
JAN 11 2 20 PM '54  
RECORDED

190-55627-2  
JAN 14 1954  
5

# Jesse Palmer Post No. 1068

AMERICAN



LEGION

304 West 133rd Street

New York 30, N. Y.

FOundation 8-7904

MEETING NIGHTS 1st & 3rd SATURDAYS

To: The Federal Bureau of Investigation  
290 Broadway  
N.Y.C.

1/2/54

Gentlemen:

Will you kindly advise me as to the Loyalty status of Manning Johnson--1536 Lexington Ave, and who is reportedly employed at 70 Columbus Ave. This man has applied for membership in our Post, and his application has been challenged. We must know if his Political activities are of a nature detrimental to the welfare of our Country. A prompt answer would be appreciated to avoid embarrassment to all concerned, Thank you. I remain,

Sincerely Yours,

b7c

Commander.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-10-97 BY SP1A/MK  
FIPA # 351145

100-10763-

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 4 1954	
FBI - NEW YORK	

b7c

(INFO)

100-55627-65

100-17063 at  
65-10519 at  
100-47211-501 at  
Reid  
1/5/53  
Q

4  
SAC, New York (65-10519)

January 13, 1954

106-55627-25  
SE 49  
Director, FBI (100-55627)

MANNING JOHNSON  
FORMER [REDACTED]  
CONF. INFL.

Reurlet dated January 8, 1954, attaching a letter from [REDACTED] Commander, Jesse Palmer Post No. 1068, American Legion, 304 West 133rd Street, New York 30, New York.

According to referenced letter, [REDACTED]'s letter has been acknowledged and he has been advised that his inquiry was referred to the Bureau.

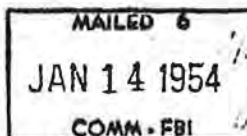
You should have an Agent contact [REDACTED] in the immediate future, at which time it should be explained to him that Johnson furnished information to the Bureau on a confidential basis from April, 1942, to February, 1944, based upon his previous membership in the Communist Party from 1930 to 1940. Johnson was not carried as an employee of this Bureau and was paid for his assistance.

Finally, it should be explained to [REDACTED] that we are merely furnishing this information so that [REDACTED]'s Post will be in possession of complete facts and since it is not within the limits of the FBI's prescribed functions as a fact-finding agency to make evaluations concerning the integrity or character of any individual, it is not possible to furnish a recommendation of Mr. Johnson.

You should advise the Bureau when you have complied with the above instructions.

JDD:DE NOTE ON YELLOW: We have answered previous communications concerning Manning Johnson in the above manner.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Gearty \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



JAN 21 1954  
2491

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-10-97 BY SP2ALN/AN  
FIPA #357145

48861

RECOMMENDATION:

*This is for information.*

ADDENDUM:

b7c [ At approximately 2:30 p.m. on this date, [redacted] of the Criminal Division of the Department called the Bureau concerning the Bunche case. [redacted] again referred to Confidential Informants Johnson and Patterson and stated the Department would like to be advised as soon as possible when Johnson and Patterson first furnished information concerning Bunche. [redacted] pointed out that what he had in mind was whether Johnson and Patterson had only recently seen fit to give information relative to Bunche, or whether they had furnished information previously and again during the United Nations loyalty investigation. I told [redacted] I was not familiar with this and that it would require a considerable amount of research. He stated the Department would appreciate whatever information the Bureau could furnish in this connection.

The New York Office has been requested to review its files in an attempt to determine the information desired by the Department

Mr. Rosen

May 28, 1954

**RALPH JOHNSON BUNCHE  
LOYALTY OF EMPLOYEES OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND OTHER PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS - IR**

On the afternoon of this date, [redacted] of the Criminal Division of the Department telephonically communicated with the Bureau concerning the Ralph Johnson Bunche case. [redacted] advised that a memorandum has been or is being sent to the Bureau in the Bunche case requesting information concerning Leonard Patterson and Manning Johnson, both former Communist Party members who furnished derogatory information concerning Bunche during the United Nations loyalty investigation. According to [redacted] the Department's memorandum, which he felt the Bureau may not have received as yet, referred to information given by Patterson and Johnson to the effect that Bunche was introduced to them individually as a Communist Party member at a meeting of top leaders of the Party fraction of the National Negro Congress held in Washington, D. C., in 1935. [redacted] indicated the memorandum requested that the Department be advised as to the availability of Johnson and Patterson for testimony. He stated that he was calling to suggest that upon receipt of this memorandum, the Bureau give it as expeditious attention as possible in view of the interest of the Department in the Bunche case.

I told [redacted] that he should check the Department's files, since it was felt that all pertinent information concerning Johnson and Patterson as to their background and reliability had already been furnished to the Department. I also advised him that a memorandum dated May 27, 1954, had been sent to the Department with the information requested in the memorandum referred to above mentioned by [redacted]. [redacted] was also advised that the request regarding the availability of Johnson and Patterson is receiving attention. In this connection, immediately upon receipt of the referenced memorandum from the Department, the New York Office was telephonically requested to contact Johnson and Patterson regarding their availability; and, by air-tel dated May 28, 1954, the New York Office advised that both Johnson and Patterson had indicated that they are available. This information was immediately incorporated into a memorandum to Mr. Olney dated May 28, 1954.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Gearty \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_

CHS:jhc  
138-143  
CC - Mr. Belmont

100-55627  
100-997285

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-10-97 BY SP2ALM/ML  
FBI # 357145

NOT RECORDED  
164 AUG 16 1954

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 138-143-264

48858

Mr. Rosen

June 1, 1954

**RALPH JOHNSON BUNCHE  
LOYALTY OF EMPLOYEES OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND OTHER PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS - IR**

*Manning Johnson*

Reference is made to my memorandum dated May 28, 1954, reflecting a call on the afternoon of that date from [redacted] of the Criminal Division of the Department regarding the first time Confidential Informants Manning Johnson and Leonard Patterson furnished information to the Bureau concerning Bunche. On the afternoon of May 28th, Supervisor [redacted] of the New York Office, calling in the absence of ASAC MacLennan, telephonically advised that the informant files on Patterson and Johnson in the New York Office had been reviewed and there was no indication that either Johnson or Patterson had furnished information concerning Bunche prior to their interview in the Bunche case on June 8, and 12, 1953. This information is reported in the 138 (United Nations Loyalty Program) case on Bunche. [redacted] was advised that every effort should be made to determine from any other files in the office whether Patterson and Johnson had previously furnished information regarding Bunche. He stated this would be done, and an air-tel sent to the Bureau immediately upon completion of their checks.

On the morning of June 1, 1954, I again called the New York Office and talked with Supervisor [redacted] on Mr. MacLennan's desk. [redacted] advised that the New York Office had been conducting research on this and he would check to see if the results had been submitted to the Bureau. Subsequently on this date, Supervisor [redacted] advised that an air-tel had been sent to the Bureau on Friday evening advising that checks of the informant files, as well as the indices, had developed no data indicating Johnson and Patterson had furnished information relative to Bunche prior to their interviews in the United Nations loyalty case.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This is for information and the Department is being advised of the results of this search.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Gearty \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

CHS:jhc  
AUG 19 1954  
CC - 100-55627  
100-397285

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-10-97 BY 1244/164  
FOIPA # 357145

NOT RECORDED  
AUG 16 1954  
INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_  
ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 138-11-268

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-55627)  
 FROM : SAC, New York (65-10519)  
 SUBJECT: MANNING JOHNSON  
 FORMER SECURITY INFORMANT

DATE: 1/21/54

Rebulet 1/13/54.

aw  
 [redacted] Commander, Jesse Palmer Post No. 1068, American Legion, was contacted by SA [redacted] on 1/19/54. [redacted] is a letter carrier assigned to the US Post Office at [redacted], NYC.

b7c  
 In accordance with rebulet, [redacted] was advised that MANNING JOHNSON furnished information to the Bureau on a confidential basis from April, 1942 to February, 1944, based upon his previous membership in the CP from 1930 to 1940. It was pointed out that although JOHNSON was paid for his assistance he was not an employee of the Bureau.

[redacted] who expressed thanks for the cooperation of the FBI with his Post of the American Legion, was advised that the above information was being furnished solely for the purpose of supplying the American Legion with the facts involved, and that in no sense were any evaluations or recommendations being made as such would be outside of the prescribed functions of the FBI.

RECORDED-33

100-55627-26  
9 JAN 25 1954

JFM:KMC

7-3  
JAN 27 1954

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 3-10-97 BY SP2ALJ/WH  
 FOIPA # 357145

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-55627)

DATE: 1/5/54

FROM : SAC, New York (65-10519)

SUBJECT: MANNING JOHNSON

FORMER [REDACTED] b2  
CONF. INFO.

Rebulet, 12/23/53.

On 12/31/53, SA [REDACTED] contacted [REDACTED] Deputy Commissioner, Insurance Department, State of New York and, in accordance with Bureau instructions orally acknowledged that agency's letter of 12/16/53 re JOHNSON.

[REDACTED] was furnished the information re JOHNSON which referenced letter authorized and, per instructions, he was informed that the Bureau was making no recommendation as to either clearance or disapproval in this matter.

[REDACTED] was contacted inasmuch as this office has had very close and satisfactory contact with him for the last three years in re the IWO. [REDACTED] advised that the manner of acknowledgement was entirely satisfactory and that he was in position to state that the needs of his department have been satisfied in this instance.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-10-97 BY J12ALM/111  
FOIPA # 857145

RECORDED-97

100-55627-2

37 JAN 25 1954

60 JAN 28 1954

DWP:CTJ

# Swank Legion Post Splits on Ex-Communist

The swanky Theodore Roosevelt Jr. post of the American Legion has split wide open on admitting to membership a former Communist who was a national Negro organizer for the party, the World-Telegram and Sun learned today.

In a stormy meeting last night at the Press Box Restaurant, 139 E. 45th St., some 120 members of Post 1755, most of them advertising and business executives in the midtown area, refused to give unanimous approval to the membership nomination of Manning Johnson, the former Communist.

## Bitter Accusations.

Opposition to Mr. Johnson centered around his testimony before a U.S. loyalty board on Dr. Ralph Bunche, Nobel Peace Prize winner and head of the Trusteeship Department last May.

Members attending the meeting last night said that several Negro members vehemently objected to Mr. Johnson's approval for membership. They said accusations were so bitter that Mr. Johnson abruptly left the meeting before the vote was taken.

## Not Confirms.

Maj. Gen. Hugh J. Casey, commander of the post and chairman of the Transit Authority, presided. He said "I will not comment on the nature of the controversy" but added:

"Mr. Johnson's nomination was not confirmed. A resolution was adopted calling for a mail poll of the post's membership to see if Mr. Johnson would be voted in."

A former commander of the post, Fred Benham, said that Mr. Johnson, long ago cleared as a former Communist by the Department of Justice, had been nominated by Archibald Roosevelt. Mr. Benham also said Mr. Roosevelt sent him a telegram at the meeting. "He told me in the wire that he was getting out of the Legion," Mr. Johnson is "not accepted," said Mr. Benham.

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Sizoo	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

G. I. R. - 9

U5-1



File - 5  
SO

7th Stn Final

CLIPPING FROM THE  
N.Y. WORLD TELEGRAM & SUN

N. Y.  
DATED **JAN 14 1955**  
FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION  
**50 JAN 25 1955** 175

100-55601-A

NOT RECORDED  
161 JAN 21 1955

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-10-92 BY SP2ALM/HN  
FIPA #357145

Director, FBI (100-38808)  
Att: Administrative Division  
SAC, New York (100-25784)

3/3/55

[REDACTED] b7c  
SM-C; PERJURY

Re Washington Field air-tel, 2/23/55.

Re MANNING JOHNSON

In regard to pending perjury grand jury hearing of captioned subject, MANNING JOHNSON'S main files were reviewed at New York for derogatory background information and payments received from the FBI in the event JOHNSON is to be utilized as a witness.

Derogatory Information

In April 1942, MANNING JOHNSON advised that he was single, never having been married, but that he has a daughter seven years old who resides with him. JOHNSON advised that he was arrested during a street demonstration in Buffalo, N. Y., in 1932, in which he was charged with a misdemeanor and fined.

On 11/24/53, MANNING JOHNSON voluntarily appeared at the New York Office and furnished photostatic copies of his past arrest record in Erie County, Buffalo, N. Y. The photostatic complaint reads as follows:

On [REDACTED], one [REDACTED] b7c  
Buffalo, N. Y., filed a complaint in the City of Buffalo, Erie County, State of New York, before JOSEPH AL KOLASSE, Clerk of the City Court of Buffalo, charging MANNING JOHNSON with injury to property to the extent of one hundred dollars. On [REDACTED] the jury returned a verdict of not guilty before Honorable Judge JOSEPH J. KELLY in the City Court of Buffalo, N. Y.

1-Bureau (100-55627) (MANNING JOHNSON)  
1-San Francisco (100-18274)  
2-Washington Field (100-27955)  
1-New York 65-10519

FWG:HCH

55 MAR 22 1955

100-55627-✓  
NOT RECORDED  
98 MAR 16 1955  
INITIALS ON ORIGINAL  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-10-97 BY SP8ALM/IN  
FOIPA #157145

Letter to Director, FBI  
NY 100-25784

In 1930 at Buffalo, N. Y., MANNING JOHNSON was arrested for willfully delaying an officer in the performance of his duty, which charge was dismissed.

In 1938 at New York City, he was arrested for disorderly conduct in connection with the Horn and Hardart strike, which charge was dismissed.

b7c [ On 9/20/48, [REDACTED], Immigration and Naturalization Service, New York City, advised that he had talked to MANNING JOHNSON and that JOHNSON showed him a subpoena which he had received ordering him to appear in the case of [REDACTED] perjury and naturalization matter. According to [REDACTED] JOHNSON "blew up" and said that his current employment was now ruined inasmuch as he had been served the subpoena in the stock room of his employment and that his notoriety as a government witness would be clear in the minds of the union officials at his employment. JOHNSON was very angry because he has been "used" by the government and state agencies and other committees as a witness so often that he has had considerable trouble in obtaining work. X

It is noted that MANNING JOHNSON allegedly admitted under oath that he had lied not only in the case against STEVE NELSON but also when he was a witness in the suit brought against the International Workers Order in New York City in that he did not tell the truth about his previous connections with the FBI.

In the final edition of the "New York Post", dated 1/30/55, an article appears entitled, "Legion Post is Asked to Reject Ex-Red Who Accused Dr. Bunche." The article states that a Harlem post of the American Legion demanded that MANNING JOHNSON, ex-Communist accuser of Dr. RALPH BUNCHE, be barred from proposed membership in the Theodore Roosevelt Post of the Legion.

#### Payments

As of 4/23/42, MANNING JOHNSON had received

Letter to Director, FBI  
NY 100-25784

compensation at the rate of \$25 per week. From 7/31/42, he had received compensation at the rate of \$35 a week. During March 1943, he was paid compensation in the sum \$155 and \$30 for travelling expenses. As of April 1943, MANNING JOHNSON had received compensation at the rate of \$35 a week up to 2/24/44. It will be noted that authorization to pay the amounts indicated above were received from the Bureau, but in some instances there is no indication or receipts in the file indicating that JOHNSON actually received these payments. MANNING JOHNSON received compensation and travel expenses on 1/12/49, in the amount of \$91.29, and on 1/24/49, he received \$120.35. He also received \$15 expense money from the Buffalo FBI Office on 1/17/49.

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. L. V. Boardman

DATE: March 15, 1955

FROM : Mr. A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: SECURITY INFORMANTS AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-27-81 BY 2842 PMVMEJC  
3-14-97 SP2ALM/JN  
FBI PA # 257145

Tolson  
Boardman  
Belmont  
Mohr  
Parsons  
Rosen  
Tamm  
 Sizoo  
Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Holloman  
Gandy

In connection with a letter appearing in the "Washington Post and Times Herald" for March 4, 1955, captioned "Truth and Justice," memoranda have been prepared concerning Paul Crouch, Manning Johnson and Thad Mason, all of whom have furnished information to the Bureau in the past. These memoranda are attached.

Paul Crouch has been associated with the Communist movement from about 1925 to 1942. He discontinued his relationship following differences he had with a Communist Party functionary and in 1947 began to furnish information to the Miami Office. He has been paid a total of \$984. He has testified before various Congressional committees and has been used as an expert witness in numerous trials and hearings. His reliability has been attacked by the Alsop brothers, Drew Pearson and others who have stated that Crouch is an unreliable witness. Crouch has denied all such allegations and on August 2, 1954, made a press release concerning a libel suit to be filed against the Alsop brothers and the "New York Herald Tribune."

EX-112

INDEXED-88

NOT RECORDED

Manning Johnson was a Communist Party member from 1930 to 1939 and a Bureau informant from April, 1942, to February, 1944, when he entered the United States Navy. After discharge from the Navy, Johnson was used by the Immigration and Naturalization Service as a consultant and witness. Johnson furnished derogatory information concerning Dr. Ralph Bunche in a United Nations loyalty investigation, stating that Bunche had been introduced to him as a Communist Party member in 1935. The Alsop brothers claimed Johnson had given false testimony regarding Bunche. Bunche later was cleared by the Loyalty Board.

Inasmuch as there has been no positive indication that Crouch or Johnson have furnished false information to the FBI, we have not made any re-evaluation of the reliability of either of these persons in Bureau files as we did in the Matusow case.

Attachments (4)  
cc - L. V. Boardman  
A. H. Belmont

GFM:hif

50 MAR 31 1955

12 MAR 23 1955

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

Concerning Thad Mason, however, it is to be noted that this individual has admitted testifying falsely before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee in 1953. Mason, during his testimony, alleged that he had been engaged in espionage and later admitted that these allegations were false and were for the purpose of enhancing the sale of a proposed book. Extensive investigation was conducted; however, the Department, by letter dated November 30, 1954, declined prosecution of Mason for perjury. Inasmuch as Mason admitted perjury, Bureau files containing information furnished by him were corrected to show his unknown reliability and other agencies which had received information furnished by Mason were also advised of the unknown reliability of Mason as an informant.

Regarding the writer of the letter appearing in the "Washington Post and Times Herald" on March 4, 1955, this person is undoubtedly identical with S. Ralph Harlow, a professor at Smith College. [REDACTED] b7c

Briefly, it appears that Harlow has been affiliated with several Communist front organizations, including the Friends of the Soviet Union, the American Committee for the Protection of Foreign Born, the Committee for Peaceful Alternatives to the Atlantic Pact and others.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is submitted for your information.

28

28

March 15, 1955

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
MANNING JOHNSON

Manning Johnson was a member of the Communist Party from 1930 to 1939 and was used as a paid Bureau informant from April, 1942, to February, 1944, at which time he entered the United States Navy. He has not been used as an informant since that time but has been contacted from time to time for information in his possession concerning Communist matters. After his discharge from the United States Navy Johnson was used by the Immigration and Naturalization Service in many deportation cases. (100-55627-19)

The testimony of Manning Johnson in the case of Alfred H. Bohlanger versus the International Workers Order before the Supreme Court, County of New York, reflects that Johnson was a witness from February 2 to February 5, 1951. Under cross-examination he was questioned at great length concerning testimony previously given by him in the Gerhard Eisler case and at the Dmytryshyn hearings conducted by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The defense attorney charged that Johnson perjured his testimony in the above-mentioned cases. This was denied by Johnson. The defense attorney moved to the court that Johnson be committed for perjury; however, the court denied the application pointing out that the records in the Eisler case and the Dmytryshyn hearings reveal that the court had ruled that Johnson did not give perjured testimony. (100-55627-20)

In the Steve Nelson State Sedition trial in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in April, 1951, Johnson admitted in cross-examination that in a previous case on the west coast in 1948 he had not told the truth regarding the furnishing of reports on Communist activities to any Federal agency. This case was a deportation case against Nat Yanish, Advertising Manager of the "Daily People's World." In his testimony at Pittsburgh, Johnson said that since he had given his promise to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to maintain secrecy, in his opinion it would not be a violation of any oath if he maintained such secrecy for security of the nation. (100-55627-19)

b7c [REDACTED] ejf:pat  
(9)  
Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSURE

100-55627-28

DECLASSIFIED BY SP2ALH/NN  
(3-10-8)  
FBI/PA #357145

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY 2842 Pmmc/IA  
REASON FOR EXTENSION  
FORM II, 1-2-42  
DATE OF REVIEW FOR  
DECLASSIFICATION 7-22-91  
7-27-91

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

As Johnson was appearing before the Subversive Activities Control Board in September, 1951, the above information concerning Johnson's testimony in the Steve Nelson State Sedition trial was furnished by letter dated September 24, 1951, to Assistant Attorney General James M. McInerney of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. The Assistant Attorney General was also advised that Johnson was instructed, as are all informants, to maintain the informant relationship as confidential but no instructions were given to him or to any informants to deny the relationship under oath. (100-56627-18)

The April 23, 1951, issue of the "People's World" contained an article entitled "Yes, I Lied, FBI Witness Admits on Stand." This article reflected in substance the testimony of Johnson in the Steve Nelson case during which he admitted lying under oath. The April 20, 1951, issue of the "Daily Worker" and the April 21, 1951, issue of the Pittsburgh "Courier," a weekly Negro newspaper in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, contained articles identical in substance to the article which appeared in the "People's World," as mentioned above. (100-56627--19)

On July 2, 1954, attorneys from the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice contacted the Bureau concerning Leonard Patterson and Manning Johnson, former Communist Party members who furnished derogatory information concerning Dr. Ralph Johnson Bunche in a United Nations loyalty investigation. Bunche was Director, Office of Assistant Secretary General, Department of Trusteeship and Information, from Non-Self-Governing Territories, United Nations Secretariat, New York, New York. The Departmental attorneys referred to information given by Patterson and Johnson to the effect that Bunche had been introduced to them individually as a Communist Party member at a meeting of top leaders of the Party fraction of the National Negro Congress held in Washington, D. C., in 1935. The Department was interested in determining whether there might possibly be some perjury involved in connection with the testimony of Johnson and Patterson before the International Organizations Employees Loyalty Review Board. (138-14-308)

The July 2, 1954, issue of "The Washington Post" contained an article written by the Alsep brothers, columnists, which article contained verbatim quotations from the transcripts of the hearing on Bunche. The article alleged that Johnson and Patterson gave false testimony concerning Bunche before the Loyalty Hearing Board. The article further stated that a transcript of the hearings was forwarded to the Department of Justice "for investigation of perjury." The Departmental attorneys requested that Johnson and Patterson be reinterviewed by the Bureau. (138-14-308)

Johnson was reinterviewed on July 7, 1954, in connection with the request from the Department and he reiterated statements made to the Bureau when interviewed during the United Nations loyalty investigation of Bunche. He referred to the article by the Alsop brothers, mentioned above, and stated it was part of a planned program to discredit ex-Communists who have been testifying as Government witnesses. He expressed willingness to cooperate with the Bureau and a desire to assist the Bureau at any time. Additional investigation did not result in the obtaining of further evidence either confirming or refuting their testimony.

A report reflecting the results of the interview with Johnson was furnished by letter dated July 9, 1954, to the United States Civil Service Commission and to Assistant Attorney General Warren Olney III. (138-14-313)

On February 21, 1955, the Attorney General transmitted a letter to the Bureau entitled "Ex-Communists as Witnesses." This memorandum reflected information concerning the unreliability of [REDACTED] and others and requested the Bureau to mark its records to show the unreliability of [REDACTED]

The memorandum stated that Assistant Attorney General Tompkins will complete his report as to whether the action of Leonard Patterson and Manning Johnson in the Ralph Bunche case requires any additional action in that proceeding and whether it requires any reappraisal of their reliability as Government witnesses in future proceedings. No action was requested of the FBI by the Department in the above-mentioned memorandum and the Department is in possession of all reports in the Bunche case.

It is to be noted that on May 28, 1954, the Chairman of the International Organizations Employees Loyalty Board advised the Bureau that the Loyalty Board had cleared Bunche on that date. (138-14-313)

Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

March 18, 1955

Director, FBI

SECURITY MATTER - C  
PERJURY  
FBI File 100-38808

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP (S) OF  
DATE 4/5/78

Assistant United States Attorney Hitz, Washington, D. C.,  
has advised our Washington Field Office that the presentation of  
this case to the Federal Grand Jury has been postponed indefinitely  
pending consideration whether the facts warrant such action.  
Mr. Hitz stated that the following individuals would be subpoenaed  
as Government witnesses if prosecution is undertaken:

4-4-9) SP2ALM/NP FOIPA # 357145

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DATE 4-28-92 BY SP2TAP/cil  
JAC

Wanning Johnson

The following information relating to these persons  
appears in our files:

A summary of information in Bureau file 100-38808-25  
was furnished to the Criminal Division of the Department by memorandum  
dated September 22, 1950. (62-80382-25)

(100-38808-26C)

To  
Bo  
Nich  
Bell  
Habo  
Mohr  
Parr  
Rosen  
Tamm  
Sizoo  
Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Holloman  
Gandy

Re: [redacted] and Truman Administrations.

cc - Bufiles (62-80382)(100-63)(100-50210)(100-135483)  
(100-53627)

note on yellow page 4)

60 MAR 25 1955

DECLASSIFIED BY 1237  
ON 6-30-78 JJP

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XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☒ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of \_\_\_\_\_

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): 3rd party information

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

NR 100-55627 dated March 18, 1955 pages 2 + 3

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CONFIDENTIAL

b7c [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has been investigated by the Bureau and copies of reports concerning him have been furnished the Records Administration Branch of the Department.

MANNING JOHNSON:

This person has been investigated by the Bureau and copies of reports relating to him have been furnished the Records Administration Branch of the Department.

Your attention is invited to memorandum from the Attorney General dated February 21, 1935, entitled "~~Ex~~-Communists as Witnesses" which stated that your office was preparing a report concerning the reliability of Leonard Patterson and Manning Johnson as Government witnesses.

NOTE ON YELLOW: In view of the volume of information set forth herein and exchange of correspondence with AAG Tompkins, this memorandum is directed to him rather than the Attorney General.

Director, FBI (66-2542)

3/29/55

SAC, New York (100-5109)

SM - C

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DATE 3-10-97 BY SP2A14/AN  
FBI/PA 357145

ReNYair-tel to Bureau, 3/23/55 entitled "State, SGE".

On 3/9/55 during the course of a Security of Government Employees investigation entitled "aka: [redacted] Refugee Relief Program, Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, Department of State, Washington, D. C.", (Bufile 140-7876) (NYfile 140-3532) [redacted] former Immigration and Naturalization Consultant, was contacted at the New York office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 70 Columbus Ave., NY, NY. Immediately upon contact, [redacted] inquired, "What is it about?" He was advised that this inquiry concerned [redacted] to which [redacted] replied, "I have nothing to say to the FBI. I am not going to furnish any more information to the FBI." [redacted] was then asked if he minded explaining why he took this position. He stated that he was no longer employed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service and that he was through being a "public charter service". At this point the interview was terminated.

The Bureau by teletype dated 3/22/55 concerning the [redacted] case requested the NYO to interview [redacted]

On 3/23/55 [redacted] who is in charge of Immigration and Naturalization Service Consultants at 70 Columbus Ave., NY, NY, was contacted concerning the present status of [redacted] as a consultant for the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

[redacted] confidentially advised that the Immigration and Naturalization Service had employed consultants on a full time basis, but that recently it became necessary to drop these consultants from the payroll with the understanding that they would be hired as needed. [redacted] advised that about three of four of the [redacted]

- 1 - Bureau 140-7876 [redacted]
- 1 - Bureau 66-2542 (MARTIN JOHNSON)
- 1 - Bureau [redacted]
- 1 - Bureau [redacted]
- 1 - NY (140-3532)
- 1 - NY [redacted]
- 1 - NY (100-50765)
- 1 - NY (65-10519)

APR 4 1955

100-55627-1  
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MAR 30 1955

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Letter to Director, FBI  
NY 100-5109

consultants became provoked at this arrangement and indicated to the Immigration and Naturalization Service that they would not be available on a part-time basis and would no longer cooperate with the Immigration and Naturalization Service. [redacted] advised that [redacted] is one of the persons who indicated that he would no longer cooperate in furnishing information to that government agency. (C)

[redacted] advised that since [redacted] was dropped from the payroll as a full time employee, [redacted] has given the Immigration and Naturalization Service "a rough time" and has refused to cooperate. [redacted] stated that he is certain that [redacted] attitude will result in "repercussions" to the FBI and other government agencies who attempt to contact him for information. [redacted] advised that he is furnishing this information so that [redacted] attitude will be known in the event that any attempt is made to contact [redacted] in the future. [redacted] also advised that [redacted] and [redacted], former

Immigration and Naturalization Service consultants, have also expressed their dissatisfaction with part-time employment and have indicated that they might no longer cooperate in furnishing information to the Immigration and Naturalization Service. [redacted] stated that he believes MANNING JOHNSON (NYfile 65-10519) (Bufile 65-2542) could be persuaded to continue to furnish information to government agencies. (C)

[redacted] reiterated that the above information was "off the record" in that he did not wish to be quoted concerning any of the information he furnished. (C)

[redacted] was again contacted by the NYO on 3/23/55 and he again advised that he would not furnish any information to the FBI because of being discharged by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. He stated that he will not cooperate with any government agency until such time as the Attorney General of the United States changes his attitude concerning the employment of consultants by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The above is being furnished to the Bureau for information.

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
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**3** Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

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\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

NR 100-55627 dated 3/16/55 (stamp date)

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re

*Mr. Manning Johnson*

66 APR 20 1955

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-4-97 BY SP2ALM/MS  
FIMA # 357145

100-55627-✓

NOT RECORDED  
163

APR 19

DECLASSIFIED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
ON \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-418105-2

CONFIDENTIAL

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Sizoo  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

TO : Messrs. Rogers, Hoover, Swing,  
Rankin, Tompkins, Olney

DATE: March 21, 1955

FROM :

SUBJECT: EX-COMMUNISTS AS WITNESSES

This is a status report on the above subject, and contains instructions as to future steps to be taken, in addition to the instructions for marking files set forth in my memorandum of February 21, 1955.

## 1. [REDACTED] MATTERS

(a) Employee security cases. The FBI has furnished Internal Security, on March 2, 1955, a list of the cases in which evidence furnished by [REDACTED] was used. If FBI finds additional such employee security cases, or similar cases other than employee cases, it will notify Internal Security.

Internal Security is to advise the appropriate government agency of each such case, recommending a review. Internal Security is to advise me of the action taken in every one of these cases.

(b) INS Cases. INS used [REDACTED] in one case (see memorandum to me dated February 24, 1955) and since his testimony was corroborated, and the defendant refused to testify, the case will not be reopened.

(c) Report of Messrs. Tompkins and Lombard on [REDACTED] This is to cover (1) disposition of Court cases, SACB cases and employee security cases in which Matusow was involved, including recommended course for future steps.

SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES CONTROL BOARD

(ii) Evidence of Communist plot against the Department of Justice, or any part thereof, and of campaign against Government informants and witnesses, is disclosed by study of [REDACTED] matters.

(iii) Recommendations as to discipline of any Department of Justice employees who did not maintain proper standards in preparing or using [REDACTED] in behalf of the Government. In this connection INS's memorandum of February 24, 1955 states that INS decided not to use [REDACTED] as a witness after April 8, 1954 "on receipt of information that the subject had written letters to his wife in which he stated that he had committed perjury in testifying regarding communism." Were the FBI and Internal Security notified of this at the time.

EXP. PROC.

MAR 21 1955

CONFIDENTIAL

*Give immediate attention*  
H.

CONFIDENTIAL

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO

page 2

DATE:

FROM

SUBJECT:

(iv) Recommendations as to proposed prosecutions or further Congressional investigations of [redacted] or other individuals or labor unions, based upon evidence discovered in your investigation.

(v) Should there be closer liaison between INS and FBI as to information as to witnesses and informants.

(vi) Should any instructions be issued to Departmental professional employee re Responsibility of Trial Attorney or Prosecutor for Reliability of Witness (along the lines set forth in memorandum from Mr. Rankin to Mr. Rogers, dated March 10, 1955)?

(d) SACB Cases. [redacted] was used in four cases (see Mr. Tompkins' memorandum to me, dated March 17, 1955).

In the [redacted] case, the Government asked the Court of Appeals to disregard his testimony in toto, after which the Court decided the appeal in our favor.

In the [redacted] case the Board found in our favor, stating that it disregarded [redacted] testimony in toto.

In the [redacted] case, Mr. Tompkins states [redacted] testimony could be stricken without affecting the Government's case.

Internal Security should advise me as to its action on this point.

In the [redacted] case, Mr. Tompkins states [redacted] testimony could be stricken without affecting the result of the case.

Internal Security should advise me as to its action on this subject.

CONFIDENTIAL

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

page 3

DATE:

FROM :

SUBJECT:

2. matters

(a) Mr. Olney should advise me as to whether prosecution of [redacted] is warranted by reason of disclosures in the [redacted]

||| (b) The FBI advised me (February 24, 1955) [redacted] was never used as an informant.

(c) Internal Security advised me [redacted] was never used by it as a witness.

(d) INS advised me (March 2, 1955) of 8 deportation cases and one denaturalization case in which [redacted] was used as a witness. Also that [redacted] will not hereafter be used by INS as an informant or witness.

One of the deportation cases [redacted] is to be reopened on motion of INS. and INS should advise me of the result. A second case [redacted] was terminated by BIA. In the remaining 6 cases, the record has been reviewed and upon recommendation of General Swing these cases will not be reopened because he states the evidence is sufficient without consideration of testimony; or in cases still open, [redacted] testimony will be disregarded.

As to the denaturalization, General Swing is to advise me (case).

3. case.

||| Neither FBI, nor INS, nor Internal Security used her as an informant or witness.

Mr. Olney will keep me advised as to developments in the indictment of [redacted] for perjury growing out of FCC case.

4. case and case.

| INS advised me on March 16, 1955 that it has now ceased using [redacted] as informants or witnesses.

CONFIDENTIAL

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

Page 4

DATE:

FROM :

SUBJECT:

General Swing should submit his recommendations to me as to action to be taken in each case where [redacted] or [redacted] was used as informant or witness.

Internal Security states [redacted] testified in two SACB cases. In one [redacted] case, it is stated his testimony could be stricken in its entirety without weakening the case, and it is recommended the case not be reopened. In the other ( [redacted] ) case, it is stated it is believed his testimony is credible and it is recommended the case not be reopened.

Mr. Rogers should advise me in this [redacted] matter.

Mr. Tompkins should advise me as to whether [redacted] was used in any other cases; also whether [redacted] was ever used in any cases.

Also, the FBI should advise as to whether evidence from [redacted] or [redacted] was used in any employee security cases.

5. Leonard Patterson and Manning Johnson.

On March 9, 1955 Internal Security advised me that it concluded "there is no reason to question the reliability of either Johnson or Patterson with respect to the information they have furnished regarding these cases" and that "in each case the possible future use of these individuals as witnesses should be decided in the light of all the circumstances".

Mr. Rogers should advise me as to his opinion on Patterson and Johnson, and particularly as to whether we should now answer the inquiry as to them from the International Organizations Security Board.

Confidential

# Views—Reviews

By GEORGE S. SCHUYLER

MY OLD friend, Atty. General Reynolds and I have been having an exchange of correspondence concerning my column of Feb. 19, in which I commented upon the attack of the Jesse Palmer Post of the American Legion against the admittance of Manning Johnson to membership in the Theodore Roosevelt Jr. Post, both in New York City, because Johnson is a former Communist party official and has testified in Government investigations into the Communist conspiracy.



Mr. Schuyler

Attorney Reynolds charges that I erred in referring to the Theodore Roosevelt Jr. Post as a "white" group whereas, he says, "It is one of the few interracial posts of which the Legion can boast," and that several prominent Negroes belong to it. I apologize for this error. He feels that I "smeared" him and

have committed an artistic and assault upon his reputation because of his outspoken opposition to Manning Johnson's acceptance as a Legionnaire. It was certainly not my intention to insure Attorney Reynolds in any way when I mentioned him. I apologize for any harm done him.

IN EXPLANATION of his opposition to Johnson's acceptance as a member of the Post to which Attorney Reynolds belongs, he says that it "was based solely upon my consistent hatred for and distrust of Communists, white or black. And that includes those who have now hit the sawdust trail of repentance and are loudly proclaiming their patriotism now that the jig is up. Call this a blind spot; but it is not unpatriotic. I simply will not sit quietly by and allow some allegedly reformed traitor to my country contaminate the atmosphere of any organization to which I belong. Harvey Matusow's shenanigans are sufficient corroboration of my views along this line. How can you suggest that you can trust these self-confessed traitors? Or

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Sizoo	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

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DATE 3-11-97 BY SP2ALM/UP  
FOIPA # 357145

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don't we have an FBI smart enough to infiltrate their organizations and get reliable evidence for us? And in the light of the gospel you have been preaching, how can you now attempt to pin wings on any skunk who totally subscribed to the Communist conspiracy and now contends that he did not know the gun was loaded? Don't you read your own material?"

MANNING JOHNSON, being an honorably discharged World War II veteran, is eligible for Legion membership. Far from having just now hit the sawdust trail, he has been fighting the Communist conspiracy ever since he left the party in 1940. Moreover, for several years he has been a Department of Justice operative, working for the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, and has been proved to be honest, reliable and truthful.

His efforts have helped to convict or deport many Reds. He deserves commendation rather than condemnation, and would be a valuable asset to any veterans' group which, like the Legion, carries on intensive anti-subversion activi-

ties. The ramifications of the Communist conspiracy (which includes more crypto-Communists, fellow-travelers and dupes than actual party members) are so extensive and its tactics so clever that without the aid of former Communist party members, spies and underground agents, it could never be stopped.

The most effective testimony always comes from those who have been inside. This is why the U. S. State Department wholeheartedly welcomes every Soviet citizen who defects to the West and tells what he or she knows. We would be virtually helpless without defecting Communists at home and abroad.

THESE BRAVE men and women who actually risk their lives are demonstrating their patriotism far more than those who only render anti-Communist lip service. We forgave a former President and a sitting Supreme Court Justice for having belonged to the Ku Klux Klan, so why be so unbendingly antagonistic to those who, admittedly having erred, are now fighting in the front ranks to vanquish the Red peril?

Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

CONFIDENTIAL

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TO : Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: MAY 3 1955

FROM : William F. Tompkins, Assistant Attorney General  
Internal Security Division

SUBJECT: Witnesses Used in Subversive Activities Cases

Reference is made to your memorandum, dated April 1, 1955, wherein you set forth information reflecting upon the reliability of witnesses, in addition to that information contained in my memorandum of March 11, 1955 to the Attorney General concerning 84 witnesses who have testified or may testify in proceedings before the Subversive Activities Control Board.

The following additional information concerning witnesses used by this Division has been submitted to the Departmental Committee on Security Witnesses. This includes information concerning some witnesses not reflected in my memorandum of March 11 to the Attorney General.

Attorneys in this Division are compiling information which might reflect upon the credibility of Government witnesses heretofore used in Smith Act, perjury, false statement and other internal security prosecutions, and are forwarding summaries of this information to the Departmental Committee on Security Witnesses. As this additional information is forwarded to the Committee, copies thereof will be furnished to you.

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[REDACTED] was called as a Government witness in the [REDACTED] prosecution.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

INTELLIGENCE

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RECORDS

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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Leonard Patterson and Manning Johnson

(Patterson was not referred to in my memorandum of March 11, 1955)

[REDACTED]

The U. S. Civil Service Commission's International Organizations Employees Loyalty Board conducted a hearing in the case of Dr. Bunche at New York City in May 1954.

Patterson and Johnson appeared as witnesses in this hearing and testified that in late 1934, or early 1935, Dr. Bunche had been mentioned by James W. Ford at meetings of the Communist Party's Negro Commission as a Communist Party member. Both Patterson and Johnson claimed to have

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attended a Communist Party high-level strategy meeting which was held in the office of [REDACTED] in Washington, D.C., at about the time of a conference on the economic status of the Negro which was held May 18 - 20, 1935, at Howard University. They testified that Dr. Bunche, [REDACTED] and others were present at this meeting which concerned itself with Communist Party strategy in forming a united front among the Negro peoples. They also described a meeting at the home of Dr. Bunche immediately after the conference in the [REDACTED] office to discuss establishment of a National Congress for Negro rights, attended by both Party and non-Party members. The occurrence of this meeting is supported by documentary evidence.

Johnson furnished information to the Bureau in 1953 concerning the alleged meeting in [REDACTED] office and stated that Bunche participated in the meeting and cautioned that the Communist influence and direction of the National Negro Congress should be kept from becoming obvious.

[REDACTED] voluntarily appeared at the hearings as a witness for Dr. Bunche. He recited his activities in connection with the [REDACTED] and affirmed his past membership in the Communist Party and that he himself was in contact with [REDACTED] at that time. [REDACTED] however, stated that he had no knowledge whatever of Dr. Bunche's alleged membership in the Communist Party at the time of [REDACTED]. According to [REDACTED] Dr. Bunche was never mentioned to him by either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] as being a member or sympathizer of the Communist Party.

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[REDACTED]

In 1953, in an interview with the Bureau, [REDACTED] denied having been a member of the Communist Party or having ever attended a meeting of the Communist leaders. This was in direct conflict with his testimony at the hearing.

This Division concluded that there was insufficient evidence to bring an action for perjury against any of the individuals who gave conflicting testimony at the hearing.

A reappraisal of the reliability of Patterson and Johnson was recently made with regard to their proposed testimony in several cases which are presently under consideration for prosecution. In all of these cases there is corroboration of the statements made by Patterson and Johnson and the only questionable allegation is one made by Patterson in connection with the case of [REDACTED] wherein

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Patterson [REDACTED]

After careful consideration, this Division concluded that there was no reason to question the reliability of Patterson and Johnson with respect to the information they had furnished regarding these cases.

On March 9, 1955, this Division concluded that in any future proceeding the information supplied by Patterson or Johnson with regard thereto should be meticulously scrutinized, and that every possible effort should be made to eliminate the necessity of calling these individuals as Government witnesses in internal security cases. However, in any instance in which Patterson or Johnson is a necessary and material witness and in which there is corroborating evidence or other indication as to the accuracy of their information, it may well be necessary in the interests of justice to utilize them as witnesses.

[REDACTED] was called as a Government witness in the case of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] testified before the House Un-American Activities Committee, approximately [REDACTED] concerning one [REDACTED]. He stated that he knew [REDACTED] was a member of [REDACTED] that in connection with [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] subsequently explained to the Committee that he wasn't relating this information as fact but simply as being what he had heard about McMichael after he, Gitlow, left the Party.

[REDACTED] testified as a Government witness in the [REDACTED] prosecution.

[REDACTED] was called as a Government witness in the [REDACTED] prosecution.

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DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SECURITY MATTERS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF APRIL 14, 1955

Present:

- Internal Security Division

- Criminal Division

- Immigration and Naturalization Service

The Committee met at 8:00 p.m. in  
Room 1530 at the Department

1. [redacted] advised the Committee that [redacted] the Chairman, was submitting his resignation as Chairman. [redacted] moved that he be permitted to resign and [redacted] was designated Chairman.
2. Pursuant to agenda, the Committee discussed the future use of the following ex-Communists as witnesses:

[redacted]  
Lanning Johnson

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3. [redacted] furnished the Committee with the attached summaries of derogatory information in possession of the Internal Security Division relating to the witnesses discussed. He also furnished a copy of a letter from Mr. Tompkins to the Attorney General containing information with respect to [redacted]
4. [redacted] furnished information relating to [redacted] in possession of the Criminal Division and also with respect to [redacted]

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5. [REDACTED] furnished the Committee with a summary of derogatory information which Immigration and Naturalization Service has with respect to [REDACTED]. He also advised the Committee that the field offices of the Immigration and Naturalization Service had been requested to submit the Service files with respect to the witnesses in order that they could be reviewed at the Central Office and the derogatory information extracted and furnished to the Committee.
  6. The Committee discussed the future use of [REDACTED] as a Government witness, but deferred decision on his use until the next meeting.
  7. [REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] to prepare a memorandum for the Deputy Attorney General's signature to [REDACTED] Records Administration Officer, requesting that a limited access file on Committee activity be set up.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

**Distribution:**

[REDACTED] (2)  
[REDACTED] (2)  
Mr. Belmont (1)

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DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SECURITY MATTERS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF APRIL 21, 1955

Present:

and

- Internal Security Division

and

- Criminal Division

and

- Immigration and Naturalization Service

The Committee met at 2:00 p.m. in  
Room 1630 at the Department

1. [REDACTED] furnished the Committee with the attached summaries of derogatory information in possession of the Internal Security Division relating to the following persons:

[REDACTED]

Wanning Johnson

Supplemental to information furnished by ISD on April 14, 1955.

2. [REDACTED] furnished the Committee with the attached summaries of derogatory information in possession of ISD relating to:

[REDACTED]

3. Both the Criminal and Internal Security Divisions reported no derogatory information in possession of either Division relating to [REDACTED]

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DATE 3-17-97

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ENCLOSURE

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4. The Committee reviewed the information furnished by IIS relating to [REDACTED] and considered his use as a future Government witness, and, on the basis thereof, recommended that he be cleared for future use as such witness.
5. The Committee discussed the future use of [REDACTED] as a Government witness. The following information compiled from data reflecting on his credibility submitted by IIS and IED, including reports furnished by the FBI, was reviewed and considered:

- (1) [REDACTED] discontinuance as an informant to the Bureau in view of various indiscretions on his part such as drinking heavily and revealing to a female companion that he was furnishing information to the Bureau concerning Communist activities and various allegations of intoxication on [REDACTED] part.
- (2) [REDACTED] testimony in the [REDACTED] varied in some respects from information he had submitted to the FBI over the years, and in one material instance was in contradiction to what he had furnished the Bureau.

(3) [REDACTED]

On the basis of the foregoing information the Committee unanimously recommends that [REDACTED] not be used as a Government witness unless in a specific case what he will testify to is essential and is corroborated from independent sources whether admissible or not. Decision to so use him shall be the responsibility of the using division.

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- 67C/67D 6. The Committee discussed the derogatory information submitted with respect to [REDACTED] and deferred decision as to his future use as a Government witness until the next meeting in order that there would be ample opportunity to review and consider the derogatory information concerning this witness.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

**Distribution:**

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[REDACTED] (2)  
(2)  
Mr. Belmont (1)

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF APRIL 23, 1955

Present:

- Internal Security Division
- Criminal Division
- Investigation and Naturalization Service

The Committee met at 2:00 p.m.  
Room 1630 at the Department

1. [redacted] furnished the Committee with the attached summaries of derogatory information in possession of INS on the following persons:  
[redacted]  
Manning Johnson
2. [redacted] advised the Committee that the testimony of [redacted] will be required in Service proceedings [redacted] and that INS has no derogatory information relating to her and requested that the Committee should consider her use as a witness.
3. The Committee discussed its meeting with the Deputy Attorney General yesterday and considered proposed instructions to U.S. Attorneys and INS field offices relating to the use of Ex-Communists as witnesses. Decision was deferred as to the form and nature of instructions to be issued.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

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176 MAY 27 1955  
INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

58 JUN 6 1955

Memoranda

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: May 24, 1955

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

FROM : [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE  
ON SECURITY WITNESSES

Minutes of the meeting of the above Committee on May 12, 1955, have been received.

The Committee designated [REDACTED] Criminal Division, to prepare a letter for the Deputy Attorney General's signature addressed to all U. S. Attorneys advising that if from information at hand concerning any proposed witness adverse facts are present which cause the trial attorney to reasonably question the reliability of the witness, he should request the Department for advice as to whether the witness should be used.

b7c  
b7D [REDACTED] Immigration and Naturalization Service representative, advised the Committee that the Commissioner, INS is endeavoring to secure a position in private industry for [REDACTED] is the former INS informant and witness who was released from regular employment and who adopted an unco-operative attitude as a result.

The Committee discussed the derogatory information with respect to Manning Johnson and deferred decision as to his future use as a Government witness until the next meeting.

cc - Mr. Belmont  
[REDACTED]

GFM:cmh  
(4)

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DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SECURITY WITNESSES

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MAY 12, 1955

Present:

and

- Internal Security Division

and

- Criminal Division

and

- Immigration and Naturalization Service

The Committee met at 2:00 p.m. in Room 1630 at the Department

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1. [redacted] advised the Committee concerning copies of two memoranda, dated May 9, 1955, addressed to the Attorney General by the Director, FBI, regarding [redacted] reported turnabout witness. It was concluded that neither memorandum required Committee action and that they should be retained in the Committee file.
2. [redacted] advised the Committee concerning memoranda dated May 4, 1955, addressed to the Deputy Attorney General by the Director, FBI, regarding proposed witnesses [redacted] and [redacted] in the case of [redacted] who is being tried for [redacted] under the Labor Management Relations Act. [redacted] advised the Committee that since a copy of the memorandum has been furnished Assistant Attorney General William F. Tompkins, the Internal Security Division attorneys concerned with the [redacted] prosecution will review the information in the memorandum and will, if they question the reliability of the witnesses, request the Committee for advice as to whether they should be used.
3. The Committee designated [redacted] to prepare a letter for the Deputy Attorney General's signature, addressed to all U.S. Attorneys, advising that if from information at hand concerning any proposed witness adverse facts are present which cause the trial attorney to reasonably question the reliability of the witness, he should request the Department for advice as to whether the witness should be used.

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ENCLOSURE

CONSOLIDATION

Mem. to H.C.  
5/24/55  
GFM

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4. [REDACTED] advised the Committee that the Commissioner, INS, is endeavoring to secure a position in private industry for [REDACTED]

5. Representatives of the Internal Security Division advised the Committee that that Division has no information on the following prospective witnesses whose names had been previously submitted to the Committee for consideration:

[REDACTED]

6. Representatives of the Criminal Division advised that the Criminal Division has no information to add to that furnished the Committee by ISD and INS concerning the following prospective witnesses:

[REDACTED]

7. The Committee determined that there is no objection to the use of the persons listed below as Government witnesses:

[REDACTED]

8. In view of the absence of derogatory information in the case of [REDACTED] and the determination made by the Committee on May 5, 1955, with respect to prospective witnesses in whose cases information at hand does not cause a question of reliability to arise, [REDACTED] withdrew his name from consideration by the Committee.

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9. Representatives of the Internal Security Division furnished [redacted] and [redacted] with copies of memorandum dated May 5, 1955, of the Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division, to the Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, concerning witnesses used in subversive activities cases.
10. The Committee discussed the derogatory information submitted with respect to Manning Johnson and deferred decision as to his future use as a Government witness until the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Distribution.

b7c [redacted] (2)  
[redacted] (2)  
Mr. Belmont (1)

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DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SECURITY WITNESSES

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MAY 19, 1955

Present: [REDACTED]

and

- Criminal Division
- Internal Security Division
- Immigration and Naturalization Service

The Committee met at 2:00 p.m. in Room 1630 at the Department

MANNING Johnson

FOIPA # 357145  
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1. [REDACTED] advised that the Criminal Division is presently engaged in disseminating to all U.S. Attorneys copies of the attached letter putting into effect the system of security witness clearance that had been recommended to the Deputy Attorney General by the Committee and approved by him on May 18, 1955.
2. Pursuant to request of the Deputy Attorney General, the Committee considered report being prepared by INS concerning payment of witness fees to former Communists who have been used as informants and witnesses. Final action by the Committee was deferred.
3. [REDACTED] advised that the testimony of [REDACTED] will be required in a denaturalization proceeding in the near future and requested that the Committee consider his use as a witness. He brought to the attention of the Committee the information concerning [REDACTED] contained in memorandum of the Director, FBI, dated May 13, 1955, addressed to Assistant Attorney General William F. Tompkins, concerning the Council on African Affairs, Inc. The information concerning [REDACTED] contained in the memorandum is quoted in attachment hereto. [REDACTED] submitted the attached summary of derogatory information in possession of INS concerning [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] advised that INS has no derogatory information concerning [REDACTED]. The Committee concluded that [REDACTED] may be used as a Government witness.

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MAY 31 1955 JUN 10 1955

ENCLOSURE

13 JUN 10 1955

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66 JUN 15 1955

Memo to Belmont  
5/31/55  
GFH

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4. The Committee considered information concerning Manning Johnson contained in memorandums of the Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division, dated May 5, 1955, submitted to the Committee on May 12, 1955, that submitted by ISD on April 14 and 21, 1955, and in summary of information in possession of IIS submitted to the Committee on April 20, 1955, including:

- (1) Johnson's testimony in an International Organization Employees Loyalty Board hearing concerning Dr. Ralph Bunche that Dr. Bunche had been introduced to him by a Communist as a Party member and that Dr. Bunche had attended a high level Communist Party strategy meeting at Howard University in Washington, D.C., during 1935 at which he, Johnson, was present.
- (2) Johnson's admission during cross-examination in the Steve Nelson sedition trial in Pittsburgh, Pa., during April 1951, that he had not told the truth in the Nat Yanish deportation hearing held in 1948 concerning his relationship with the FBI and his statement during the Nelson trial that it would not violate his oath as a witness if he maintained secrecy regarding his relationship with the FBI.
- (3) Allegations that Johnson has a tendency to over-indulge in alcoholic beverages.
- (4) References by the Board of Immigration Appeals in its decision in favor of [redacted] to what it called inconsistencies in the testimony of Johnson and other Government witnesses regarding [redacted] affiliation with the Communist Party.

The Committee concluded that Manning Johnson may be used as a Government witness in any instance in which he is a desirable and material witness and what he will testify to is corroborated.

5. The Committee considered information concerning [redacted] contained in memorandums of the Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division, dated March 11, 1955, in summaries of information submitted by ISD on April 14 and by IIS on April 26, 1955, and concluded that [redacted] may be used as a Government witness.

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6. The Committee considered information concerning [REDACTED] contained in memoranda of the Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division, dated March 11, 1955, in summaries of information submitted by ISD on April 14 and May 12, 1955, and by INS on May 3, 1955, and concluded that [REDACTED] may be used as a Government witness.
  7. The Committee considered information concerning [REDACTED] contained in memoranda of the Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division, dated March 11, 1955, in summaries of information submitted by ISD on April 14 and May 12, 1955, and by INS on April 26, 1955, and concluded that [REDACTED] may be used as a Government witness.
  8. [REDACTED] submitted the attached summary of derogatory information in possession of INS concerning [REDACTED] and that the Criminal Division has no information concerning [REDACTED] to add to that furnished to the Committee by ISD and INS.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Distribution:

b7c

Mr. Belmont

(2)  
(2)  
(1)✓

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CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SECURITY WITNESSES

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MAY 17, 1955

Present:

and

- Internal Security Division

and

- Criminal Division

and

- Immigration and Naturalization Service

The Committee met at 2:00 p.m. in  
Room 1630 at the Department

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FOIA # 357145

1. Committee approved the attached draft of letter for the Deputy Attorney General's signature to all U. S. Attorneys regarding procedure to be followed by U. S. Attorneys in using former Communist Party members as witnesses. It was decided that the draft should be presented to the Deputy Attorney General by the Committee.
2. [REDACTED] submitted the attached summaries of derogatory information in the possession of the Internal Security Division regarding the following witnesses:

3. [REDACTED] advised the Committee that all derogatory information in the possession of the Internal Security Division concerning former Communist witnesses had been furnished the Criminal Division and INS. He stated that all derogatory information received by the Internal Security Division in the future will be furnished the FBI, Criminal Division and INS.
4. [REDACTED] advised the Committee that all derogatory information received by the Criminal Division concerning witnesses who have been Communist Party members received from sources other than the FBI, Internal Security Division and INS will be furnished to the Bureau, ISD and INS.

NOT RECORDED

161 JUN 10 1955

CONFIDENTIAL

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

Memo to Belmont  
5/31/55

66 JUN 17 1955

- b7c/b7D
5. The Committee determined that dissemination of its conclusions regarding the use of prospective witnesses to U. S. Attorneys concerned with Criminal Division cases should be accomplished by representatives of the Criminal Division on a need-to-know basis.
  6. [REDACTED] furnished the attached summary of derogatory information in possession of IES relating to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] advised that the Criminal Division has no information concerning [REDACTED] to add to that furnished the Committee by IES. [REDACTED] advised similarly with respect to the Internal Security Division.
  7. Determination concerning use of Manning Johnson was deferred pending examination of transcript of the State Sedition Trial of Steve Nelson in Pittsburgh during 1951. During that trial Johnson is reported to have admitted on cross examination that in a deportation case against Nat Yanish in 1948 he had not told the truth regarding his association with the FBI.
  8. Consideration of the use of [REDACTED] was placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Distribution:

b7c [REDACTED] (2)  
[REDACTED] (2)  
Mr. Belmont (1)

CONFIDENTIAL

Director, FBI (100-363180)

8/26/55

SAC, NY (100-65346)

[REDACTED] was  
SM-C  
(OO: Los Angeles)

Reference: Report SA [REDACTED] San Francisco, 6/29/55.  
Report SA [REDACTED] Chicago, 8/30/50.  
Report SA [REDACTED] NY, 1/5/51.

MANNING JOHNSON, INS informant, was interviewed on 8/17/55 by  
SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at INS, 70 Columbus Ave.,  
NY, NY.

MANNING JOHNSON is a self-admitted CP member from 1930-1940.  
His identity may be set out for report purposes.

A review of subject's case file reveals that MANNING JOHNSON  
has been interviewed twice previously regarding subject's activities. The  
results were set out in re Chicago and NY reports.

MANNING JOHNSON advised that his correct name is MANNING  
RUDOLF JOHNSON. He said he used the alias RUDOLF JOHNSON; however, he  
has never been known as RUDOLF MANNING JOHNSON.

MANNING JOHNSON said he knew the subject by the name of [REDACTED].  
He said she was a leader in the YCL, possibly [REDACTED]  
and also a member of the CP District [REDACTED] Bureau at the time he  
joined the CP [REDACTED] in 1930. Approximately 1933, according to  
JOHNSON, the subject, selected by the CP Central Committee in NY, went to  
the Lenin School in Russia.

JOHNSON said that although in 1933 he was in a position to  
recommend two individuals [REDACTED] to attend the Lenin School, he  
had nothing whatsoever to do with the subject's selection. He stated  
that on her return from Russia, he saw her in 1935 or 1936 at a Central  
Committee Plenum in NYC. JOHNSON stated, to his recollection, he has not  
seen the subject since that time. He said he had no knowledge of any  
fraudulent statements she might have made in connection with her application  
for U.S. citizenship, or her illegal obtaining of a passport in the early  
1930's.

JOHNSON advised that he had an illegitimate daughter by an in-  
dividual by the name of [REDACTED]. He said this affair initiated in the  
early 1930's when he was [REDACTED]. JOHNSON said he never was married  
to the subject or ever entered into a common-law relationship with her.  
He said there is absolutely no basis in fact to any allegation that he  
ever was married to her. RUC

RM

2 - Los Angeles (100-30844) (RM)  
1 - San Francisco (100-30743) (Info) (RM)  
1 - [REDACTED] (100-30743) (Info) (RM)  
1 - [REDACTED] (100-30743) (Info) (RM)  
KMK:CJL

INDEXED-57

SE 48

NOT RECORDED  
14 AUG 30 1955

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8-11-97 BY SP-2/2/97  
100-363180-75

SAC, New York (100-19131)

June 21, 1956

Director, FBI (100-116363)

*aw*

██████████  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
PERJURY

Reurlet dated June 6, 1956.

*b7c*

Bureau files reflect that on May 19, 1955, the Departmental Committee on Security Witnesses concluded that Manning Johnson may be used as a Government witness in any instance in which he is a desirable and material witness and in which his testimony is to be corroborated. In view of the fact that Johnson has made the specific allegation that he knew ██████████ as a member of the ██████████ of the Communist Party (CP) of the State of New York and that he observed ██████████ at CP meetings on many occasions during the 1930s, Johnson should be interviewed for specific details concerning his knowledge of the subject's CP activities. An effort should be made to determine through the interview of Johnson the identities of other individuals who could corroborate information furnished by Johnson. Every logical effort should be made to secure such corroboration from additional witnesses.

Continuous and expeditious attention should be given this matter.

*cc* - 100-55627 (Manning Johnson)

YELLOW: Subject is on SI. Possible prosecution based on his testimony before public session of Senate Internal Subcommittee on ██████████

JSR:plc  
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-11-97 BY SP2ALM/JH  
FBI # 357145

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mason \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

66 JUN 27 1956



100-55627-  
NOT RECORDED  
194 JUN 25 1956

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-116363-742

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

cc- [REDACTED] b7c

Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

June 21, 1956

Director, FBI

SECURITY MATTER - C

DECLASSIFIED BY SP2ALM/JN  
ON 3-11-97  
FOIPA #357145

Assistant United States Attorney Thomas A. Bolan, Southern District of New York, advised that the subject is being prosecuted in the Southern District of New York for making a false statement at an Immigration and Naturalization proceeding. In connection with this case, Mr. Bolan advised that he is considering as prospective Government witnesses, [REDACTED] and Manning Johnson. Mr. Bolan has requested information concerning them.

Information regarding Johnson and [REDACTED] is in the possession of the Department. Also, FBI files show that [REDACTED] was cleared for future use as a Government witness by the Departmental Committee on Security Witnesses according to the minutes of the meeting of that committee on April 26, 1955.

The Departmental Committee on Security Witnesses, according to the minutes of a meeting on May 19, 1955, concluded that Manning Johnson may be used as a Government witness in any instance in which he is a desirable and material witness and what he will testify to is corroborated.

Mr. Bolan will be furnished the above information and it will be suggested to him that any question regarding the utilization of these individuals as witnesses should be taken up with the Department of Justice.

2 cc - New York (100-116893)

Note SAC, New York:

YELLOW  
DUPLICATE  
JUN 21 1956  
MAILED

Furnish the information to Bolan. Advise him that the background of Johnson and [REDACTED] is known to the Department and the Immigration and Naturalization Service and suggest any questions regarding them should be addressed to the Department.

cc-100-55627 (Manning Johnson)

cc-61-1544

Note on yellow: involved in non-Bureau case 956

JJB: ph

(8)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mason \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL FILE IN 100-123531

Mr. A. H. Belmont

December 11, 1956

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON  
SECURITY WITNESSES  
Bufile 100-418105

The minutes of the above committee dated December 3, 1956, have been received and reviewed. (u)

The committee considered the Supreme Court decision in [redacted] et al v. USA in which the Supreme Court on November 5, 1956, remanded instant case to the District Court for trial de novo. (X)(u)

The committee recommended that cases in which [redacted] testified as a Government witness or cases in the administrative process be remanded to the appropriate administrative body, court or agency for such action as may be consistent with the decision of the Supreme Court. (X)(u)

The Criminal Division is considering the credibility of [redacted] and its findings will be submitted to the committee when completed. (X)(u)

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) advised the testimony of witness Manning Johnson (cleared by the committee May 19, 1955) in the case of the Communist Party, USA, before the Subversive Activities Control Board had been expunged by the board and requested advice of the committee regarding further use of Johnson as a witness. The Internal Security Division will check details regarding the expulsion of Johnson's testimony and will advise the committee in order that it may consider the request of the INS. (X)(u)

1 - 100-55627 (Manning Johnson)

1 - 100-381185 [redacted]

1 - Mr. Belmont

BY SP2 ALM/JN

3-11-97

FOIPA #357145

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mason \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

BFR:aml  
(6)

100-55627  
NOT RECORDED  
140 DEC 20 1956

Classified by 259  
Exempt from GDS, Category 2  
Date of Declassification Indefinite  
6-10-78 JJP/70

DEC 26 1956

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

671-100-418105

ORIGINAL FILED IN

Memo [redacted] to Belmont  
Re: DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SECURITY WITNESSES  
100-418105

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Manning Johnson was a member of the Communist Party from 1930 to 1939 and was used as a paid Bureau informant from April, 1942, until February, 1944, when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Following his discharge from the U.S. Navy, he was not reactivated as a Bureau informant. He testified for INS on a number of occasions and before the Subversive Activities Control Board in September, 1951. (X)(U)

[redacted] were utilized as informants by [redacted] from 1942 to April, 1953, when both testified as Government witnesses in the [redacted] (This is the only occasion either testified in a Bureau case). No information has been developed to indicate that either [redacted] furnished false or inaccurate information during the time they served as Bureau informants. It is to be noted, however, that since his discontinuance as a Bureau informant [redacted] has testified and made statements which have given cause to question his reliability. In connection with the possible unreliability of [redacted] the Supreme Court returned the [redacted] trial to the District Court for a new trial as to all defendants. (X)(U)

b7c/b7D

ACTION:

Copies of the above described minutes have been prepared for inclusion in the Bureau file of Manning Johnson (100-55627) and the Bureau file of [redacted] (100-381185) (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SECURITY WITNESSES

MINUTES OF MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 1956

Present:



and

- Criminal Division

and

- Internal Security Division

and

- Immigration and Naturalization Service

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-11-91 BY SP2ALG/JW  
REF ID: A357145

The Committee met at 2:30 p.m. in  
Room 2113 at the Department

DECLASSIFIED BY  
CJ

- b7c/b7D
1. The Committee considered the Supreme Court decision in [redacted] et al. v. USA decided by the Supreme Court on [redacted] in which [redacted] testified for the government, remanding to the District Court for trial de novo.

The Committee recommended that cases under the jurisdiction of the Department in which [redacted] has testified as a government witness be remanded to the appropriate administrative body or court for such further action as may be consistent with the decision of the Supreme Court. The Committee further recommended that cases in the administrative process, e.g. Immigration and Naturalization Service cases, be remanded to the administrative officer who heard the case originally for action to conform with the decision of the Supreme Court in remanding the case of the Communist Party USA v. Subversive Activities Control Board to that Board (351 U.S. 115).

2. The Criminal Division called the attention of the Committee to a letter which it had received from the United States Attorney [redacted] casting a question as to the credibility of [redacted] and advised that it is compiling detailed information regarding this witness and will submit it to the Committee when completed.
3. The Immigration and Naturalization Service advised the Committee that it had been informed that the testimony of witness Manning Johnson in the case of the Communist Party USA

ENCLOSURE

100-55627- ✓

~~CONF~~

~~IAL~~

- 2 -

before the Subversive Activities Control Board had been expunged by the Board as a result of court action. Accordingly, the Service requested advice from the Committee as to the effect of this action upon future utilization of Manning Johnson and whether the Committee's decision of May 19, 1955 clearing this witness for utilization should be reconsidered. The Internal Security Division stated that it will compile the details surrounding this expungement of Johnson's testimony and will advise the Committee in order that it may consider the request of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Distribution:

b7c

[REDACTED] (2)  
[REDACTED] (2)  
Mr. Belmont(1)

~~CONF~~ ~~IAL~~

Assistant Attorney General  
Internal Security Division

April 22, 1959

Director, FBI

69303

FREDERICK WOODROW STOVER v.  
CENTRAL BROADCASTING COMPANY  
(LIBEL SUIT)

MANNING JOHNSON  
DEFENSE WITNESS

3-13-97 1124LH/JN  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-18-83 BY SP1 GSK-DMS-JAR  
228,277

There is attached hereto an Auto-Stat of a letter to the Bureau from Attorney George Cosson of Des Moines, Iowa. Cosson represented Frederick Woodrow Stover in connection with Stover's recent libel suit against the Central Broadcasting Company.

In February, 1954, Radio Station WHO, Des Moines, broadcast a program entitled "The Last Man Out." During this program, former Communist Party member Helen Wood Birnie identified Stover as a secret Communist Party member. In February, 1959, Stover, who denied that he had ever been a Communist Party member, sued the Central Broadcasting Company in the Polk County District Court, Iowa, for libel. Stover sought damages in the amount of \$250,000. Manning Johnson, a former Bureau informant, appeared as a defense witness at the trial and testified that Stover had attended a Communist Party national committee meeting in New York City in 1933. On March 12, 1958, a verdict was returned in favor of the Central Broadcasting Company.

With reference to Frederick Woodrow Stover,

George Cosson is a former Attorney General of the State of Iowa and a former unsuccessful candidate for the United States Senate. The files of this Bureau contain information identifying Cosson as

100-368786  
100-55627

2 - Omaha (Enclosure) (See note page 2)

NOTE ON YELLOW: See [redacted] memo to Belmont 4/21/59 re same caption - EBR:pat

EBR:pat  
(10)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

100-55627-  
NOT RECORDED  
176 MAY 1 1959

YELLOW  
DUPLICATE  
APR 23 1959  
MAILED

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

67 MAY 6 - 1959

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-368738-42

Assistant Attorney General  
Internal Security Division

69304

b7c

[REDACTED]

With reference to Manning Johnson, the Internal Security Division is completely cognizant of his background, it being noted that the question of his utilization as a witness for the Government has been the subject of numerous discussions before the Interdepartmental Committee on Security Witnesses.

The Special Agent in Charge of this Bureau's Omaha, Nebraska, Office is being instructed to orally acknowledge the receipt of Cosson's letter to the Bureau and to advise him that neither Johnson nor any other Bureau informant has been instructed to deny his relationship with this Bureau while under oath. Cosson will be further advised that the FBI will not interject itself in any state matter but that since Johnson has been utilized as a Government witness in several cases, some of which may still be pending, a copy of Cosson's letter has been transmitted to the Internal Security Division of the Department.

This memorandum is being transmitted for the information of the Internal Security Division since Cosson may correspond directly with the Department in this matter.

Enclosure

ATTENTION SAC, OMAHA:

The SAC or ASAC arrange to immediately contact George Cosson, to personally acknowledge the receipt of his letter to the Bureau, an Auto-Stat of which is attached for your information. Cosson should be advised that neither Manning Johnson nor any other informant of the FBI has ever been instructed to deny under oath his relationship with the FBI. Cosson should be further advised that the FBI will not interject itself into any state matter but that since Johnson has been utilized as a Government witness in several cases, some of which may still be pending, the Bureau has sent a copy of his letter to the Internal Security Division of the Department of Justice and Cosson may desire to contact that Division with reference to this matter.

69305

**Assistant Attorney General  
Internal Security Division**

**NOTE TO OMAHA. CONTINUED**

For your additional information, Manning Johnson was a Communist Party member from 1930 to 1939 and was used as a paid Bureau informant from April, 1942, to February, 1944, at which time he went into the United States Navy. He has not been used as an informant since that time but has been contacted from time to time for information regarding communist matters. After his discharge from the Navy, he was extensively utilized by the Immigration and Naturalization Service and also testified in several state trials.

He appeared as a Government witness in the first New York Smith Act trial and later at the hearing against the CPUSA before the Subversive Activities Control Board. His testimony at this latter hearing was stricken by the SACB at the request of the Government following the remand of the case by the Supreme Court.

In February, 1957, the Interdepartmental Committee on Security Witnesses considered Johnson's case and decided not to utilize him as a witness for the Government in any future cases. ]

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Belmont ✓  
 Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Re: Manning Johnson  
 Bufile not available  
 E/S-1

*file*

### Church Group To Hear Ex-Red

Manning Johnson, New York, an admitted former Communist who was a witness at the Legislature's Un-American Activities Committee hearings here in 1948, will speak at a service, at 7:30 o'clock tomorrow evening in the Broadway Tabernacle, Fairview Avenue North and John Street.

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 27 1959	
F.B.I. SEATTLE	

100-55627-A  
 NOT RECORDED  
 126 MAY 7 1959

SEATTLE TIMES  
 APR 25 1959  
 PAGE 4 COL 8

52 MAY 8 1959

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 3-13-97 BY SP2ALG/AN  
 FIPA # 357145

Assistant Attorney General  
Internal Security Division

May 7, 1959

Director, FBI

FREDERICK WOODROW STOVER v.  
CENTRAL BROADCASTING COMPANY  
LIBEL SUIT

MANNING JOHNSON  
DEFENSE WITNESS

3-13-97 JPA/ALM/IN  
#357145  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-14-83 BY SP1 GSK1-DMS-JAR  
228,227

Reference is made to this Bureau's memorandum dated April 22, 1959, regarding the inquiry received from Attorney George Cosson, Des Moines, Iowa, who is representing Frederick Woodrow Stover in Stover's suit against the Central Broadcasting Company. A copy of Cosson's letter to the Bureau was transmitted to the Internal Security Division by referenced memorandum.

On April 29, 1959, Special Agent in Charge Joseph E. Thornton of this Bureau's Omaha Office personally contacted Mr. Cosson and advised him that neither Manning Johnson nor any other informant of the FBI has ever been instructed to deny under oath his relationship with the FBI; that the FBI will not interject itself into any state matter, and that the Bureau had sent a copy of his, Cosson's, letter to the Internal Security Division of the Department of Justice since Manning Johnson has been utilized in the past as a witness by the Department of Justice.

It is not known whether Mr. Cosson will contact the Internal Security Division regarding this matter.

100-368738  
100-55627 -

YELLOW  
DUPLICATE  
MAY 7 - 1959  
MAILED

NOTE ON YELLOW: Manning Johnson, a former Bureau informant, testified for the Central Broadcasting Company (CBC) regarding the communist background of Frederick Stover. Stover's attorney, George Cosson, advised the Bureau by letter 4-17-59 that Johnson admitted during cross-examination that he had been charged with perjury during a prior trial and that his excuse for giving perjured testimony was that he had given an oath to the FBI not to divulge his relationship with the Bureau. Cosson's letter indicated an obvious attempt to seek FBI help in an effort to secure a new trial for Stover. [redacted] memo to Belmont 4/21/59 recommended that SAC Thornton contact Cosson and straighten him out. A copy of Cosson's letter transmitted to ISD by letter 4/22/59 and ISD apprised of all facts regarding this situation.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

53 MAY 11 1959  
MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-368738-43

Director, FBI

5/1/59

SAC, Omaha

FREDERICK WOODROW STOVER v.  
CENTRAL BROADCASTING COMPANY  
(LIBEL SUIT)

MANNING JOHNSON  
DEFENSE WITNESS

ReBulet to Assistant Attorney General, Internal  
Security Division, dated 4/22/59, captioned as above.

SAC Joseph E. Thornton personally called on attorney  
GEORGE COSSON at his office, 1014 Savings and Loan Building,  
Des Moines, Iowa, on April 29, 1959, at which time the  
instructions set forth by the Bureau for the Omaha Division  
were followed, namely:

(1) Mr. COSSON was advised that neither MANNING  
JOHNSON nor any other informant of the FBI has ever been  
instructed to deny under oath his relationship with the FBI.

(2) Mr. COSSON was advised the FBI will not  
interject itself into any state matter.

(3) Mr. COSSON was advised the Bureau had sent a  
copy of his letter to the Internal Security Division of the  
Department of Justice since MANNING JOHNSON has been utilized  
as a government witness.

Mr. COSSON is quite elderly and quite genteel and  
was most appreciative of the fact a representative of the FBI  
called upon him in regard to this matter. It was quite difficult  
to make him understand SAC Thornton was from Omaha and not from  
Washington, D.C., and he was prone to insist SAC Thornton should  
wait until the return of his son, [REDACTED] whose return  
to the office was quite indefinite.

3 - Bureau (100-368738)  
          (100-55627)  
2 - Omaha (100-4483)  
          [REDACTED] b2/b7D

JET:fh  
(5)

100-55627-  
NOT RECORDED  
102 MAY 8 1959

3-13-97 SP2AUN/AN JSM #357445  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-14-93 BY SP1 GSK/L/RMS-  
228,277

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-55627)

DATE: 7/13/59

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (65-10519)

SUBJECT: MANNING JOHNSON  
Former [REDACTED] b2

For the completion of files, the Bureau is advised that according to an article appearing in the "New York Amsterdam News", dated 7/11/59, MANNING JOHNSON died following an automobile accident while on the West Coast on a lecture tour. The article states that the cause of death was attributed to a heart ailment. The article does not set out the exact date and place of MANNING's death.

EX - 124

REC- 61 100-55627-33

18 JUL 24 1959

- ② - Bureau (100-55627) (Info) (RM)  
1 - New York (65-10519)

WTM:efb  
(3) FBI

FBI

RECEIVED

JUL 28 11 48 AM '59

51 JUL 28 1959 / 45

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-12-92 BY 10221/100  
- Rm # 857145 -

REC- 61  
JUL 28 1959

7-15-59

*File*

[redacted] called regarding Manning Johnson's accident in California.

b7c

[redacted] to whom he talked, advised him it was his automobile in which Manning was riding when Manning was injured. [redacted] was driving the car up a mountain and a car came down and almost hit them and the son had to swerve and the car went over a cliff. Johnson had a vertebrae fractured. It apparently wasn't too serious and he was to be released from the hospital in a cast a few days, but on Thursday, a week ago, he had just asked the nurse for something and she turned away and he fell back in his chair dead. An autopsy showed he had serious hardening of the arteries and that a artery of the heart failed.

The body is still at Tillie's Funeral Home at San Bernardino, California, and he is trying to get enough money to ship him to Arlington.

As far as he is concerned he is satisfied there was no foul play. If you learn anything to the contrary, he would like to know.

MAH

*5- [signature]*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-13-97 BY SP2ALM/HW  
FOIPA # 357145

# Manning Johnson Dead; Led Turbulent Life

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif., July 25 (AP).—In his 51 turbulent years, Manning Johnson had been:

A Communist, an undercover agent for the FBI, a Navy enlisted man, a Justice Department consultant and a militant foe of some Negro integrationists—although he himself was a Negro.

Although his name once was in headlines because of his testimony in the Harry Bridges and Gerhart Eisler trials, only a few people attended his military funeral yesterday.

Mr. Johnson died July 2 of a heart ailment in a Lake Arrowhead, Calif., hospital.

A spokesman for the mortuary which conducted the burial said the funeral was delayed because approval—and money—was needed from his wife, Mrs. Mae Johnson of New York. His wife did not attend the rites.

## Native of District

Mr. Johnson, a native of Washington, D. C., joined the Communist Party in the 1930s, attracted by the Reds' clamor for equal rights for Negroes.

Disillusioned with communism's methods and goals, he tried to quit, but was persuaded to remain by the FBI, which used him as an undercover agent. He officially broke with the party and joined the Navy during World War II.

After his discharge, he was hired as an expert witness and researcher by the Justice Department.

Mr. Johnson testified in the 1949 Harry Bridges trial. The president of the International Longshoremen Warehousemen's Union, accused of lying at his 1945 naturalization hearing, was acquitted.

Mr. Johnson also testified in the 1947 passport fraud trial



MANNING JOHNSON

AP Photo

of Communist spy Gerhart Eisler, who later jumped bail and fled to East Germany.

Mr. Johnson left the Justice Department about five years ago after a Supreme Court decision complained his testimony was "tainted"—implying he had a conflict of interest because of his paid status with the department.

## Worked as Lecturer

In recent years, he worked as a lecturer and researcher for conservative magazines.

He published a book, "Color, Communism and Common Sense," a year ago. It decried efforts of some Negroes for total assimilation with whites, urging that the colored race strive for a dignified status separate from that of the white race.

He contended: "I'd rather be a first class Negro than a third class imitation of a white man."

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

b7c

fill

The Washington Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
The Evening Star A10 \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Mirror \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

53 JUL 31 1959

NOT RECORDED

149 JUL 28 1959

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-13-97 BY 102ALM/HW  
FIM #357145

# Johnson, Foe Of Reds, Dies

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif., July 25 (AP)—A sparsely attended military funeral yesterday ended the career of Manning Johnson, Negro leader and onetime Communist organizer who later became an FBI undercover agent.

Mr. Johnson, 51, died July 2 of a heart ailment. But a spokesman for the mortuary which conducted the burial said interment was delayed because consent was needed from his wife, Mae Johnson of New York City.



Mr. Johnson testified in numerous un-American Activities Committee hearings and state anti-Communist legislative sessions.

He was a key witness in the 1949 perjury trial of Harry Bridges, president of the International Longshoremen-Warehousemen's Union, accused of

lying at his 1945 naturalization hearing.

Mr. Johnson, a native of Washington, D. C., joined the Communist Party in the 1930s. He became a Party organizer in Buffalo, but later expressed disillusionment with the Party's methods and goals.

He tried to quit the Party but was persuaded to remain a member by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which used him as an undercover agent. He finally broke with the Party during World War II and joined the Navy.

Shortly after his discharge, Mr. Johnson was hired by the Department of Justice as an "expert witness and researcher."

Mr. Johnson was an outspoken foe of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He declared over-ardent Negro integrationists were hurting their own cause.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*file*  
*b7c*  
*L 51*

*7/2/59*

The Washington Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Mirror \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
Date JUL 26 1959

*100-55627-A*

NOT RECORDED  
117 JUL 29 1959

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-13-97 BY SP2ALN/HN  
*25M 435745*

*62 JUL 30 1959*

Mr. Tolson ☒  
 Mr. Belmont ☒  
 Mr. DeLoach ☒  
 Mr. McGuire ☒  
 Mr. Mohr ☒  
 Mr. Parsons ☒  
 Mr. Rosen ☒  
 Mr. Trotter ☒  
 Mr. W.C. Sullivan ☒  
 Tele. Room ☒  
 Mr. Holloman ☒  
 Miss Gandy ☒

Security MATTERS

MANNING JOHNSON, 51, whose glib testimony as an ex-FBI undercoverman, ruined so many careers, was buried at San Bernardino, Calif. last week with no one to mourn his passing. His wife, Mrs. Mac Johnson of NYC did not even attend. His death occurred on July 2.

[REDACTED]  
 b7c  
 [REDACTED]  
 (P) 125

THE NEW JERSEY AFRO-AMERICAN  
 NEWARK, NEW JERSEY  
 DATE: 8/8/59

EDITION: FINAL  
 AUTHOR OF ARTICLE:  
 EDITOR: STEVE W. DUNCAN  
 TITLE:

CLASSIFICATION OR CHARACTER:

SUBMITTED BY THE NEWARK  
 FIELD DIVISION

100-55627 4 -  
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 149 AUG 20 1959

57 AUG 21 1959

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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 DATE 3-13-97 BY SP2ALH/K  
 FILE # 257141

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Albany

DATE: March 26, 1959

FROM: Director, FBI (66-18772)

**SECRET**~~CONFIDENTIAL~~SUBJECT: ESPIONAGE AND INTERNAL SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS  
(Full Utilization of Confidential Informants  
and Sources of Information)

Re Bulet 11/25/58.

In order to streamline our procedures for the purpose of realizing maximum economy and efficiency, captioned program will henceforth be limited to inclusion of cooperative individuals having other than a local knowledge of:

1. Communist-bloc espionage activities in the United States or abroad;
2. Communist-bloc official personnel;
3. The Lenin School;
4. The Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

2 - Albuquerque	2 - Indianapolis	2 - Oklahoma City
2 - Anchorage	2 - Jacksonville	2 - Omaha
2 - Atlanta	2 - Kansas City	2 - Philadelphia
2 - Baltimore	2 - Knoxville	2 - Phoenix
2 - Birmingham	2 - Little Rock	2 - Pittsburgh
2 - Boston	2 - Los Angeles	2 - Portland
2 - Buffalo	2 - Louisville	2 - Richmond
2 - Butte	2 - Memphis	2 - St. Louis
2 - Charlotte	2 - Miami	2 - Salt Lake City
2 - Chicago	2 - Milwaukee	2 - San Antonio
2 - Cincinnati	2 - Minneapolis	2 - San Diego
2 - Cleveland	2 - Mobile	2 - San Francisco
2 - Dallas	2 - Newark	2 - San Juan
2 - Denver	2 - New Haven	2 - Savannah
2 - Detroit	2 - New Orleans	2 - Seattle
2 - El Paso	2 - New York	2 - Springfield
2 - Honolulu	2 - Norfolk	2 - Washington Field
2 - Houston		

CLASSIFIED BY SP2ALMAN

DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 66

Classified by 4259

Exempt from GDS, Category 2

Date of Declassification Indefinite

3571X51

NOT RECORDED

145 MAR 31 1959

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1959

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

**SECRET**~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Letter to SAC, Albany  
Re: ESPIONAGE AND INTERNAL SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS  
(Full Utilization of Confidential Informants  
and Sources of Information)  
66-18772

**SECRET**

A reanalysis of individuals currently included under this program has been made and the following listed persons not falling within the above categories should be deleted:

b2/b7D/b7C

(S) b1

(S) b1

(c) b1

Johnson, Manning

The following additional changes should be made concerning individuals previously included in this program:

- 2 -

**SECRET**

Mr. A. H. Belmont

April 21, 1959

1 - Mr. Belmont

1 -  
1 -  
1 -  
1 -

FREDERICK WOODROW STOVER v.  
CENTRAL BROADCASTING COMPANY  
(LIBEL SUIT)

MANNING JOHNSON  
DEFENSE WITNESS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-10-83 BY SP16SK1-DMS  
3-13-97 J/PAL/MUN 228, 277  
#357145

**SYNOPSIS:**

In February, 1954, Stover identified as secret Communist Party (CP) member in program over Des Moines radio station. Stover sued Central Broadcasting Company (CBC) in Polk County Court, Iowa, for \$250,000 for libel. Former Bureau informant Manning Johnson testified for CBC at trial that Stover attended CP meeting in New York in 1933. Verdict returned against Stover on March 12, 1959. Stover subject of security investigation by Bureau but removed from Security Index in 1955 for failure to meet standards for inclusion therein.

By letter April 17, 1959, George Cosson, Stover's attorney, commented regarding Johnson's testimony including admission by Johnson that he had been charged with perjury during prior testimony. Cosson's letter stated Johnson's excuse for giving perjured testimony was that he had given oath to FBI. Cosson suggested Director furnish him a statement for submission to court during forthcoming argument for motion for new trial. Bureau's files identify Cosson as former Iowa Attorney General. Cosson's name has appeared on petitions requesting Presidential amnesty for Smith Act defendants and for repeal of McCarran Act.

Manning Johnson was expelled from CP in 1939 and utilized as paid Bureau informant from 1942 to 1944; has testified extensively for Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and at first New York Smith Act trial and in CP case before Subversive Activities Control Board (SACB). In February, 1957, Department decided Johnson should not be further utilized as Government witness.

**OBSERVATIONS:**

Johnson's alleged perjury committed at INS hearing in 1948, when he denied he had furnished information to Government agencies. This testimony challenged during cross-examination of Johnson at Steve Nelson state sedition trial in April, 1951, in Pittsburgh. Johnson admitted so testifying but claimed he did so to avoid disclosing former confidential nature of relationship with FBI. Department was furnished facts regarding alleged perjury by Johnson and was further advised neither Johnson nor any other informant had ever been instructed to deny relationship with FBI under oath. Cosson obviously seeking FBI help in efforts to secure new trial for Stover. Stover case purely state matter and Bureau should not interject itself in any way.

Enclosure  
EBR:pat (5) 1-100-368738  
1-100-55627

NOT RECORDED  
102 APR 27 1959

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-368738-41

Memorandum for Mr. Belmont  
RE: FREDERICK WOODROW STOVER v. CBC  
MANNING JOHNSON  
100-368738  
100-55627

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1) That the SAC or the ASAC at Omaha be instructed to contact Attorney Cosson and to orally acknowledge his letter to the Director. Cosson should be further advised that Johnson was never instructed by the FBI to lie under oath regarding his relationship with the Bureau. However, the Bureau will not become involved in a state case and inasmuch as Johnson has been utilized as a witness in several cases handled by the Department of Justice, the Bureau has transmitted a copy of his, Cosson's, letter to the Internal Security Division of the Department of Justice. It should be pointed out to Cosson that he may, if he so desires, contact the Internal Security Division directly regarding this matter.

OK  
H.

2) That the attached memorandum be transmitted to the Internal Security Division enclosing a copy of Cosson's letter and advising the Internal Security Division that Cosson is being advised of this fact and is being further advised he may wish to contact the Internal Security Division.

OK  
H.

A detailed memorandum is attached.

Mr. A. H. Belmont

April 21, 1959

**FREDERICK WOODROW STOVER v.  
CENTRAL BROADCASTING COMPANY  
(LIBEL SUIT)**

**MANNING JOHNSON  
DEFENSE WITNESS**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-18-83 BY SP16SK-DMS-JAN  
3-13-97 JPA/ALH/JN 228,277  
FIPA #357145

**BACKGROUND:**

By letter April 17, 1959, George Cosson, a Des Moines, Iowa, attorney, wrote to the Bureau regarding the captioned libel suit in which he, Cosson, is defending Stover. Cosson commented on the testimony of defense witness Manning Johnson (a former Bureau informant) during which Johnson admitted he had been charged with perjury in the case 351 U.S. 115 (The Communist Party, USA, case before the Subversive Activities Control Board). Cosson related that Johnson made the statement, "I would do it a thousand times if the interest of my country required it." Cosson's letter stated that Johnson's excuse for giving perjured testimony was that he had given an oath to the FBI. Cosson stated he feels absolutely certain that no such oath was required of Johnson and he suggests that the Director might desire to furnish a statement which he, Cosson, might submit to the court during the argument on a motion for a new trial. Cosson stated that he feels the court would like to have such a statement and that it should be given in justification of the Bureau.

**FREDERICK STOVER**

Enclosure  
100-368738  
100-55627  
EBR:JDD:pat  
(5)

1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - [REDACTED]  
1 - [REDACTED]  
1 - [REDACTED]

ENCLOSURE

100-55627-  
NOT RECORDED  
102 APR 27 1959